GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3868
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2001
EXPORT OF TEA TO RUSSIA
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) the total quantity and value of tea exported to Russia during last three years; (

(b) whether there is a great scope to increase the export of tea to Russia; and (

(c) if so, the steps taken to explore this new market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Export of tea to Russia during the last three years are given as under:-

Year	Quantity (Mn. Kgs)	Value (Rs. Crore)
1998	82.50	877.32
1999	94.37	820.63
2000	86.55	609.51

(b)&(c) : In view of absence of any growth in tea market in Russian Federation and in view of severe competition from other tea producing countries, there is hardly any scope to increase export of tea to Russia. However, Russia being a traditional export market for Indian tea, the Tea Board has planned a series of promotional programmes including media campaign and brand promotion campaign to promote Indian tea in Russia. Tea Board has also prepared a medium term export strategy with focus on country specific issues including Russia.

Recently a High-level tea delegation from Russia under the banner of Russian Tea & Coffee Association, the Russian Association of Tea Producers` (ROSCHAI) visited India for a greater understanding of tea trade on both sides. It has been agreed that each side would meet periodically to review trading arrangements as a follow up to the agreement reached earlier between ROSCHAI and the Tea Board of India in December 1999.

Also various issues concerning bilateral trade and economic co-operation and steps for further development including problems being faced by exporters of tea to Russia were discussed in the Seventh Session of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Co-operation under the aegis of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Co-operation held in January, 2001 at Moscow.